

Section 9 (a)

CIVIL SERVICE PREFERENCE

The Interdepartmental Committee on Veterans Affairs examined submissions by the Canadian Legion, the Citizens' Rehabilitation Council of Vancouver, Mr. M. J. Coldwell, M.P., Mr. J. M. Dechene, M.P., Air Marshal Robert Leckie, Commodore Paul W. Earl, Chief, Naval Personnel, the Deputy Postmaster General, and the Civil Service Commission. Commander J. A. Sutherland presented Commodore Earl's statement and gave evidence. Wing Commander J. D. Jennison and Squadron Leader R. M. Beer were also heard.

Under the Civil Service Act and relevant Orders in Council, preference in employment to veterans who qualify by examination is granted as follows:—

- (1) to a pensioned veteran disabled while on service either in Canada or overseas to such an extent that he cannot resume his pre-war occupation and has not been successfully re-established in some other avocation;
- (2) to a veteran who saw active service overseas, or a veteran of the R.C.A.F. who has been required in the course of operational duties to fly outside the territorial waters of the Western Hemisphere (but not as a passenger or a person receiving a limited period of training); or a veteran of the Royal Canadian Navy who served on the high seas in a ship or other vessel, service in which is classed as "sea time";

and to the widow, who qualifies by examination, of a veteran who died as a result of overseas service;

Provided that veterans of World War II are required to have been resident in Canada at time of enlistment; and

Provided further that such service was performed prior to V-E Day or V-J Day, as the case may be.

The Canadian Legion recommends that these preferences be maintained and that an additional preference be given to all veterans who volunteered for active service and served honourably for, at least, one year. In connection with the contention that the preference at present extended to veterans of World War I and World War II practically excludes civilian applicants, the Legion quotes the following figures:—

Sept. 1, 1918 to Dec. 31, 1940	Total Male Appointments	Veteran Percentage
Permanent and seasonal.....	41,218	40·21%
Temporary appointments.....	127,661	30·53%
	168,879	32·89%
Jan. 1, 1941 to Nov. 30, 1945		
Total number of assignments.....	85,780	
Total number of Civilian assignments.....	63,356	
Total number of Veteran assignments.....	22,424	26·01%

The following are the percentages of veteran male appointments from September 1, 1918 to December 31, 1929:

	Permanent	Temporary	All Classes
Sept. 1 1918 to Dec. 31, 1919.....	47·1	51·8	51·0
1920.....	59·6	52·6	49·4
1921.....	66·0	55·2	50·2
1922.....	73·5	46·8	55·1
1923.....	75·3	48·25	57·85
1924.....	72·3	55·18	59·2
1925.....	61·3	48·0	47·7
1926.....	55·4	45·3	48·1
1927.....	54·8	34·29	41·0
1928.....	47·3	32·0	36·8
1929.....	42·1	25·6	32·0

The Legion points out that the statutory preference was not solely a measure of rehabilitation but also an expression of gratitude by the people of Canada